

Program Provides Essential Skills Training to High School Dropouts, Cuts Unemployment, Saves Taxpayers' Money

Washington, DC -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Congressman Edolphus "Ed" Towns (D-NY) today stressed the urgent need for continued support of Job Corps; the premier federal dropout recovery program, which provides education and training to help young people learn specific skills to develop a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job. In a letter to the Office of Management and Budget Acting Director Jeffrey Zients, the congressmen argued for strong federal funding of the program in the fiscal year 2012 budget.

Hinchey and Towns are members of the Job Corps Congressional Caucus and longtime supporters of the program. The text of their letter to Zients follows.

November 10, 2010

Jeffrey Zients, Acting Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Zients,

As members of the Friends of Job Corps Congressional Caucus, and longtime supporters of this federal program, we request that you provide Job Corps with strong federal funding in your fiscal year 2012 budget.

Job Corps has been successful where many other federal programs have failed. As the premier federal dropout recovery program, Job Corps finds kids who fall between the cracks for one reason or another and transforms them into confident, independent, taxpaying members of our communities and dozens of other communities across the country. Young people leave not only with the confidence to succeed, but with a GED or high school diploma, a job and the ability to go on to higher education. Moreover, Job Corps actively works with local employers to ensure the skills they are teaching students correspond with the needs of the local economy. In fact, 75 percent of Job Corps graduates secure employment, enter the military, or pursue higher education.

A staggering 1.2 million teenagers drop out of high school each year. According to a study done by Columbia University, for each high school dropout, the cost to the American taxpayer is an estimated \$469,200 over the course of their lifetime, culminating in a \$3 trillion dollar cost to taxpayers over the next decade. In comparison, the Job Corps program only costs \$26,000 per student, while saving the average taxpayer \$139,100 in lost tax revenues, \$40,500 in public health care, \$26,600 in crime-related costs, and \$3,000 in welfare.

In light of these figures, we strongly advocate for robust federal funding for Job Corps for fiscal year 2012. This program has a proven record of training out-of-school, out-of-work, at-risk youth, and gives them the opportunity to succeed. An investment in Job Corps will produce astonishing returns and is one that we cannot afford not to make.

We invite you to schedule a visit to any of New York's Job Corps locations to see firsthand the great service this program provides our youth and our country. Please contact us for assistance in arranging a visit or if you have any further questions regarding Job Corps.

Sincerely,

Maurice D. Hinchey
Edolphus "Ed" Towns